

Civil War

## CHURCH HISTORY IN THE FULNESS OF TIMES

brave man, but that I did not like blood—you insist on my killing you, which will only take a minute, but I don't want to do it. We had by this time reached the train. He, seeing that his men were under guard, surrendered saying: 'I see you have me at a disadvantage, my men being disarmed.' I replied that I didn't need the advantage and asked him what he would do if we should give them their arms. 'I'll fight you!' 'Then,' said I, 'We know something about that too—take up your arms!' His men exclaimed, 'Not by a d—n sight! We came out here to whack bulls, not to fight.' 'What do you say to that, Simpson?' I asked. 'Damnation,' he replied, grinding his teeth in the most violent manner, 'If I had been here before and they had refused to fight I would have killed every man of them.'"<sup>8</sup>

In this and succeeding engagements, the raiders torched a total of seventy-four wagons, containing enough supplies to outfit the large army for three months. They also captured fourteen hundred of the two thousand head of cattle accompanying the expedition. Major Smith's militia assisted in burning the two key Mormon outposts, Fort Bridger and Fort Supply, which government forces had expected to occupy.

These tactics succeeded so well in delaying the army that when its commanding officer, Colonel (soon to become General) Albert Sidney Johnston, finally joined his troops in early November, it was clearly too late in the season to reach Salt Lake City. It took the army fifteen days to push thirty-five miles through storms and sub-zero weather to burned-out Fort Bridger. Approximately twenty-five hundred American soldiers and several hundred civilian officials (including Governor Cumming and his wife), freighters, and camp followers spent a miserable winter in western Wyoming in a city of tents and improvised shelters called Camp Scott and in a newly created community named " 'Eckelsville,' after the new chief justice of the territory."<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile, the eastern press expressed second thoughts about the whole enterprise, and President James Buchanan in Washington and Brigham Young in Utah weighed their options for 1858.

## PEACE ESTABLISHED

In the early winter three influential men—Captain Stewart Van Vliet, Utah Congressional delegate John M. Bernhisel, and Colonel Thomas L. Kane—visited President Buchanan in Washington and urged him to send an investigation commission to Utah. Not yet willing to take that step, Buchanan gave his unofficial blessing to Kane to go to Salt Lake City to try to achieve a peaceful solution. Leaving on a steamer from New York in January 1858 at his own expense, Kane sailed to California via Panama. He traveled under the name of Dr. Osborne to avoid having his movements known.

Colonel Kane arrived in Salt Lake City on 25 February and was most cordially received. Except for telling the leading authorities of the Church, he kept his true identity secret for some time to ascertain whether the Saints



Courtesy of Utah State Historical Society

Albert Sidney Johnston (1803–62) was from Kentucky. He graduated from West Point in 1826, fought in the Black Hawk War, and fought with the army of the Republic of Texas. He served as a Confederate general during the Civil War and was killed at the Battle of Shiloh.

A.S. Johnston died at Shiloh

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elected a full slate of officers with Brigham Young as governor. But their petition was denied, mostly because of polygamy, which the ruling Republican Party was determined to oppose.

Republican President Abraham Lincoln, although he signed the Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act of 1862, which was directed against the Latter-day Saints, did not press for its enforcement. He was fair-minded regarding the Mormon question and was more concerned about dealing with the southern rebellion. When Brigham Young sent *Deseret News* assistant editor T.B.H. Stenhouse to Washington, D.C., to ascertain Lincoln's plans for the Mormons, the president told him, "Stenhouse, when I was a boy on the farm in Illinois there was a great deal of timber on the farms which we had to clear away. Occasionally we would come to a log which had fallen down. It was too hard to split, too wet to burn and too heavy to move, so we plowed around it. That's what I intend to do with the Mormons. You go back and tell Brigham Young that if he will let me alone, I will let him alone."<sup>4</sup> Throughout the remainder of the war, President Lincoln's tolerant attitude won him the respect of the Saints.

### IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

Although disgruntled politicians had biased many people against the Mormons, other noteworthy visitors to Utah were favorably impressed with what they saw and published their observations. In 1855 Jules Remy, a French botanist, arrived in Salt Lake City to stay a month. Remy published his observations in Europe in 1860, describing the Saints as an industrious and worshipful people, which helped change some of the negative perceptions many Europeans had of the Church. *New York Tribune* editor Horace Greeley, one of the most prominent journalists in America, visited Utah in 1859 and relayed his more balanced impressions of Brigham Young and the Mormons to the nation. One of the most instructive pieces of contemporary observation came from the famous world traveler Richard Burton, who arrived in Utah in 1860 and later published an insightful book about the Mormons entitled *The City of the Saints*, which was widely read.

Communication with the outside world was further enhanced starting in April 1860 with the pony express. Eighty daring, lightweight riders relayed the mail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, nearly two thousand miles, in just ten days. The riders changed horses approximately every ten miles, at 320 stations, to accomplish this legendary feat. The pony express route crossed Utah, and numerous Mormon men participated in this dangerous but romantic venture during its eighteen months of existence.

The transcontinental telegraph line, completed through Salt Lake City in October 1861, was the main reason for the discontinuation of the pony express. From then on, messages could be sent to key centers in the United States without delay. This put a stop to problems like the false information disseminated by the "runaway officials" in 1851 and President Buchanan's



Transcontinental telegraph

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### Jackson, Stonewall

Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, b. Clarksburg, Va., now W. Va., Jan. 21, 1824, d. May 10, 1863, a Confederate general in the American Civil War, is held second only to Robert E. LEE in the affection and esteem of Southerners. He was left an orphan at an early age but later graduated (1846) from West Point. He fought with distinction in the Mexican War and resigned from the army to teach at the Virginia Military Institute.

During his 10 years of teaching (1851-61), Jackson's first wife died and he remarried. He became a zealous Presbyterian and was sometimes called "Deacon Jackson." Austere in personal habits, he also became something of an eccentric. Imagining one side of his body to weigh more than the other, he often walked or rode with one arm raised to restore his balance. He stood while eating to straighten his intestinal tract and thus aid digestion.

In 1861, Jackson joined the Confederate army. In July, at the first battle of BULL RUN, he won his famous nickname. As the Confederates fell back before a Northern attack, Jackson and his brigade stood firm—"like a stone wall," according to Gen. Barnard Bee.

In the spring of 1862, Jackson commanded a Confederate army in the Shenandoah Valley. By a brilliant campaign of hard marching and hard fighting, he defeated Federal generals whose combined strength was several times his own. He then joined Robert E. Lee, who was trying to drive another Northern army away from Richmond. In the Seven Days battles (June 1862; see PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN), however, Jackson was physically exhausted, and his performance was slow and ineffective. Later, at the Second Bull Run (August) and at the battles of ANTIETAM (September) and FREDERICKSBURG (December), he contributed greatly to a remarkable string of Southern victories.

At CHANCELLORSVILLE the following spring, Jackson fought his last and greatest battle: On May 2, 1863, with over half the available Confederate troops under his command, he made a crushing attack on the exposed flank of the Federal army. As he returned from a night reconnaissance, however, he was shot by some of his own men who mistook him for an enemy. Pneumonia developed as a result of his wounds, and he died. A brilliant tactician, Jackson was the ablest of Lee's generals; his loss was a great blow to the Confederacy. Lee wrote, "I know not how to replace him."

Richard M. McMurry

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*Joseph E. Johnston was a jaunty Rebel general who feuded for many years with Jefferson Davis—starting, so the story goes, when both were at West Point. In later years Johnston lost his hair from some illness; in the war he always wore a hat as the noble, to the vast amusement of his servants.*

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Pickett, George E.

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George Edward Pickett, b. Richmond, Va., Jan. 25, 1825, d. July 30, 1875, a Confederate general in the U.S. Civil War, is remembered for Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg (see GETTYSBURG, BATTLE OF). He graduated from West Point in 1846, served in Mexico (1848), and remained in the U.S. Army until 1861, when he resigned to join the Confederate forces. A division commander at Gettysburg, on July 3, 1863, he led his troops as the spearhead of an attack on Cemetery Ridge that was designed to break through the center of the Union line. The desperate assault has been called the Confederacy's high-water mark. The attack was repulsed, and Pickett faded from prominence.

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